



October 28, 2024

Last night, the Dodgers defeated the Red Sox, 4-1, to win the World Series. Thousands emptied into the nearby LA streets to celebrate a much-anticipated championship with the most expensive roster ever assembled. Do we care? No. No, we do not. After all, we recently waged our own October battle, grinding out a 6-2 win over the playoff-bound Rangers on October 1st...to reach the 60-win threshold on the final day of the regular season. Yes, things are bleak in Anaheim. But you already knew this. Everyone knew this. The story of the 2024 Angels' season was etched in stone long before Patrick Sandoval was shelled on a cold, late March opening day in Baltimore. This season was the culmination of years of neglect – a direct byproduct of an owner who refuses to invest in the necessary minor league resources and infrastructure characteristic of winning franchises. Sure, failing to trade Ohtani in July 2023 for a desperately-needed talent infusion was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back, but the genesis of the current state of the Angels dates back nearly a decade.

Alas, rehashing the erroneous machinations of Arte Moreno isn't going to bring us any closer to escaping baseball hell. Thus, we're moving forward. While the next year or two will remain quite bleak (I'm underselling the bleakness), I'll boldly suggest that the 2024 offseason will be the definitive low point in this chapter of Angels' history. At last, there is a long-term plan in place. The rudderless ship has identified a coastline and begun the long process of pointing it towards the shore. Of course, that shoreline is barely visible. Optimistically, there is something of a "mini-core" in place at the big league level, with 2022 first round shortstop **Zach Neto**, 2023 first round first baseman **Nolan Schanuel**, and 2022 Deadline catching acquisition **Logan O'Hoppe** all looking like full-time regulars between the ages of 22 and 24. It's a start. It's...something.

The issue is going to be augmenting this core with other position players using a system bereft of starting-caliber position players. When I took over in July, there was *no one* at AAA Salt Lake. Four months later, as we enter the offseason, there's still no one worth their salt at Salt Lake. Well, there was **Kyren Paris**, who is more of a "name" than he should be simply by virtue of appearing near the top of Angels' prospect lists for the past few years. Realistically, he's a glove-first backup middle infielder with a shaky hit tool and solid eye. He was already in the middle of his second option year when I took over in the summer and appeared to be in demand in preliminary trade discussions with other clubs. Contending teams could always use a player like this at the bottom of their rosters, but I didn't see a real need for us to keep him around in the nascent stages of a rebuild. He turned out to be quite useful in juicing one of our trade returns at the Deadline. More on that later.

The actual best position prospect in the system, **Nelson Rada**, was predictably scuffling at AA Rocket City...because he's 18 years old! Yes, he played a full Double A season at 18. This isn't an Ethan Salas-level prodigy. He's a very solid 50/55-type prospect. Borderline top 100 guy. Only the Angels would rush a kid like this to Double A for no reason. Anyway, because he's only 18 and presently has 25-grade noodle power, he'll probably need to stick in center field to maximize his long-term value. With another two seasons remaining until he even needs to be added to the 40-man, Rada has ample time to develop into either a glove-first center fielder with double-plus speed on the basepaths, or, if he does add some power, perhaps a strong-defending corner outfielder with league-average pop. Elsewhere in the system, other than Rada...nope. It was just Rada. I noted some cromulent-looking 17 and 18-year olds percolating in the DSL and Low-A Inland Empire, but those guys are, of course, years away from viability. On day one, I asked myself, "of the players in this system, who in the next two seasons is going to join the mini-core in the big leagues to create a contending team?" Minutes of silence passed before Arya Stark appeared out of nowhere, stared directly into my soul, and said, "no one. No one is going to help you."

Such was the state of play when I took over as general manager on July 8th, approximately a week ahead of the 2024 Draft. Immediately, I butted heads with our scouting director, Tim McIlvaine, whose emphasis on skills and ability over tools has (somewhat) contributed to the present paucity of talent within the system. Of course, McIlvaine is merely following the diktats of the guy upstairs. Arte has the patience of a toddler and wants his shiny new draft picks playing in Anaheim as soon as possible and is willing to forgo long-term upside for short-term ceiling and satisfaction. Convinving him that we need a *proper* rebuild – even though such an undertaking in Anaheim is years overdue and obvious to just about everyone – will not be an easy feat. The first order of business as we head into the offseason is convincing Arte to bring aboard a new scouting director who understands the challenges facing this franchise and the urgent need to procure high-ceiling talent. More on that later as well.

For now, in the ensuing pages, I'll walk through the first three months on the job, beginning with the amateur Draft and concluding with an outline of where I foresee this franchise heading in both the short-term and in the years ahead.

July 13, 2024 – The Draft



There is no place quite like the Draft for working through irreconcilable differences in player evaluation philosophies! Having come aboard just a week prior to the Draft, I was working with McIlvaine's scouting reports and largely flying blind given his prioritization of older, high-floor players over their younger, more boom-or-bust counterparts. With the eighth pick, we knew we wouldn't be able to get any of the "big three" position players (Condon, Wetherholt, Bazzana) and would have to choose between the second-tier of college position players, the "big two" college starters (**Hagen Smith** and **Chase Burns**), or the only two top 10-grade high school position players (**Konnor Griffin** and **Bryce Ranier**). With a top 10 bonus pool allotment (\$14.1M), we knew we would be able to pay up for a "true" top 10 talent rather than taking the typical Angels' tack of targeting a first rounder way under slot and throwing more expensive, above-slot darts later in the Draft.


After Condon, Bazzana, Wetherholt and Griffin went off the board in order, the White Sox tossed a major curveball by taking underslot **Tommy White** fifth overall. The Royals followed with **Jac Caglianone**, and with the Cardinals on the clock ahead of us, I thought for a brief moment that we might be able to get my preferred target, UNC center fielder **Vance Honeycutt**, the reigning NCAA defensive player of the year and the optimal high-risk/high-reward player for my rebuild. Honeycutt's hit tool risk is very real, but even with a near-30% K rate, a hypothetical, Brenton Doyle-type player with 60-grade power and 80-grade center field defense is exceptionally valuable in the 2020's baseball environment in which new defensive metrics have reshaped the manner in which MLB teams build their rosters. Honeycutt also communicated that he would sign for around slot money (\$6.5M at our pick). Alas, my Honeycutt hopes were dashed mere moments later, as the Cardinals selected him one pick in front of us.

Fortunately, we had a pair of contingency plans in place with **Hagen Smith** and Texas A & M outfielder **Braden Montgomery**. Smith is a close-to-the-Majors pitcher who might be in the bigs by the summer of 2025, but I wasn't quite as sold on his upside as McIlvaine was.



**1st Round (#8): OF Braden Montgomery, Texas A & M (Signed \$6.5M); remaining bonus pool: \$7.6M**

After some back-and-forth, we selected Montgomery, whose hit tool, like Honeycutt's, carries some (albeit less) risk, though he's only passable defensively in center and will likely settle into right field, where his 70-grade cannon arm makes him a possible first-division starter. Like Honeycutt, he indicated he would sign for slot money (\$6.5M), but there's some work to do here in working on his plate discipline and contact rates. He's not a superstar, but a peak projection of .250/.340/.500 would be more than enough to make him an above-average big league outfielder for several cost-controlled seasons. Anthony Santander's bat with better defense, perhaps? He acquitted himself admirably in brief post-Draft cameos at Inland Empire & Tri City, posting a .250/.350/.551 line (137 wRC+) with a predictably high 31.7% K rate. He'll return to High A Tri City to open the 2025 campaign with a chance to quickly move to Double A if things are clicking early.



BRADEN MONTGOMERY | #14

RF | Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels - Arizona Complex League (R) | Bats: Switch | Age 21 | 6' 1" - 205 lbs

YESTERDAY

TODAY

TOMORROW

MON. NOV. 25

TUE. NOV. 26

No Game.

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PERSONAL DETAILS

Age

21 years, 211 days

Date of Birth

April 26th, 2003

City of Birth

Madison, MS

Nationality

American

Position

Right Field

Bats / Throws

Switch / Right

Team

Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels (ACL, LAA)

Salary

Minor League Contract

Prospect Ranking

#75

School

Texas A&M University

Acquired

Draft Pick (2024, Rd: 1 - Ovr Pk: 8th)

Morale

Good

Expectation

No expectation

Major Service

None

BASIC BATTING RATINGS

Contact

Current / Potential

40 / 45

Gap Power

40 / 55

Power

50 / 65

Eye

40 / 55

Avoid K's

35 / 40

SUMMARY

Overall

25

Potential

60

Scouting Accuracy

Very High

OTHER BATTING RATINGS

Batted Ball Profile

Line Drive Hitter

Groundball Tendency

Extreme Pull

Flyball Tendency

Pull Hitter

Speed

50

Stealing Aggressiveness

50

Stealing Ability

55

Baserunning

50

Sacrifice Bunt

40

Bunt for Hit

30

POSITION RATINGS

Left Field

45 / 60

Right Field

50 / 60

DEFENSIVE RATINGS

Outfield Range

50

Outfield Error

55

Outfield Arm

70


PERSONALITY

Focuses on the essentials.

Personality class: Unknown

**2nd Round (#45): SP Drew Beam, Tennessee (Signed \$4.1M); remaining bonus pool: \$3.5M**

After passing up Hagen Smith – who slid all the way down to the Royals with the first pick in the supplemental round – we used our second round pick (#45) on another fast-moving, high-floor SEC arm, **Drew Beam**, who was a mainstay in Tennessee’s weekend rotation. My lone hesitation was that Beam wanted first round money for a pick with a \$2.1M slot allocation. I bit the bullet and figured we’d save some money later in the Draft and eventually signed him for \$4.1M (he demanded \$4.4M). Beam was hardly a sexy pick, but he should settle into an eventual mid-rotation big league role and has a reasonable chance to be the first or second pitcher from this Draft class to reach the big leagues.



DREW BEAM | #32

SP | Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels - Arizona Complex League (R) | Throws: Right | Age 21 | 6' 4" - 205 lbs

YESTERDAY

TODAY

TOMORROW

MON. NOV. 25

TUE. NOV. 26

No Game.

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PERSONAL DETAILS

Age

21 years, 283 days


Date of Birth

February 14th , 2003

City of Birth

Murfreesboro, TN

Nationality

American 

Position

Pitcher (Starter)

Bats / Throws

Right / Right

Team

Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels (ACL, LAA)

Salary

Minor League Contract

Prospect Ranking

#86


School

University of Tennessee

Acquired

Draft Pick (2024, Rd: 2 - Ovr Pk: 45th)

Morale

Good 

Expectation

No expectation

Major Service

None

BASIC PITCHING RATINGS

Stuff

Current / Potential

40 / 60

Movement

40 / 50

Control

45 / 65

Fastball

45 / 55

Slider

45 / 50

Curveball

45 / 65

Changeup

45 / 75

SUMMARY

Overall

25

Potential

60

Scouting Accuracy

Very High

OTHER PITCHING RATINGS

GB/FB Tendency

Flyball Pitcher

Velocity

92-94 Mph

Arm Slot

Normal (3/4)

Pitcher Type

Normal

Projected Role in

MLB (MLB)

Current

Bullpen / Emergency Starter

Future

Starter

Stamina

55

Hold Runners

45

POSITION RATINGS

Pitcher

45 / 55

BATTING RATINGS

Contact

25 / 35

Power

20 / 30

Eye

25 / 30

Sacrifice Bunt

45

PERSONALITY

Often found talking with coaches long after drills are over.

Personality class: Unknown

High: Financial Ambition, Intelligence

**Comp. Balance Round (#75): SS/CF Kellon Lindsey, Hardee High School (Signed \$550K); \$2.95M remaining**

We also possessed pick #75 in the supplemental “competitive balance” section following round two. This was our delightful consolation prize for losing some guy named Shohei. Thank you, Perry and Arte! #Blessed. With some of our more enticing high school pitching targets off the board and \$10.6M of our \$14.1M already allocated towards Montgomery and Beam, I jumped at the chance to grab the best runner in the class, **Kellon Lindsey**, at half of his slot value (\$550K demand; \$1.05M slot). Lindsey is going to start his career at shortstop but seems destined to either move to center field or across the keystone to second base. Regardless, he profiles as an up-the-middle defender (somewhere) who was mocked towards the end of the first or in the early second in some draft projections. This was the only player in the Draft class with 80-grade speed, and most scouts think he could get to enough (45-grade) power to eventually resemble something like, say, Trea Turner? Hey, we can dream.



## KELLON LINDSEY | #29

SS | Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels - Arizona Complex League (R) | Bats: Right | Age 19 | 6' 0" - 155 lbs

YESTERDAY  
TODAY  
TOMORROW  
MON. NOV. 25  
TUE. NOV. 26

No Game.

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### PERSONAL DETAILS

Age	19 years, 63 days
Date of Birth	September 21st , 2005
City of Birth	Wauchula, FL
Nationality	American 🇺🇸
Position	Shortstop
Bats / Throws	Right / Right
Team	Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels (ACL, LAA)
Salary	Minor League Contract
School	Hardee High School
Acquired	Draft Pick (2024, Rd: 2 - Ovr Pk: 75th)
Morale	Normal 😊
Expectation	No expectation
Major Service	None
Twitter Handle	@kellon_lindsey 🐦

### BASIC BATTING RATINGS

Contact	Current / Potential
30 / 60	<div style="width: 50%;"></div>
Gap Power	
35 / 55	<div style="width: 64%;"></div>
Power	
30 / 45	<div style="width: 67%;"></div>
Eye	
30 / 55	<div style="width: 55%;"></div>
Avoid K's	
30 / 60	<div style="width: 50%;"></div>

### SUMMARY

Overall 20

Potential 50

Scouting Accuracy Very High

### OTHER BATTING RATINGS

Batted Ball Profile	Normal
Groundball Tendency	Normal
Flyball Tendency	Normal
Speed	80
Stealing Aggressiveness	70
Stealing Ability	75
Baserunning	65
Sacrifice Bunt	45
Bunt for Hit	45

### POSITION RATINGS

Second Base	40 / 60
Shortstop	45 / 50

### DEFENSIVE RATINGS

Infield Range	60
Infield Error	55
Infield Arm	55
Turn DP	55

### PERSONALITY

Lindsey uses humor to ease clubhouse tension.

Personality class: Unknown


High: Leader, Loyalty

Low: Adaptability, Financial Ambition, Work Ethic



**3rd Round (#83): IF Kyle DeBarge, Louisiana (Signed \$120K); \$2.8M remaining**

DeBarge was a fast riser in the pre-Draft process but slipped on Draft day after generating some early second round buzz. It's a vanilla profile for a third round pick, but he was willing to sign for a mere \$120K (slot was around \$970K) and opens up more high-upside/tough sign options for us in the next few rounds. The upper levels of our system are entirely devoid of this type of useful, low-end role player. He'll move quickly through the system and profiles as either a low-end regular at one of the middle infield spots or an above-average utility guy who can play a few times per week. His arm isn't strong enough for a full-time role at shortstop, but perhaps some additional development and strength work will unlock a little bit more juice in his throws. He's never played the outfield, but he was scouted at 60 range with a 50-grade arm, meaning he could increase his rosterability with occasional time in center field. Something like .250/.320/.375 at peak with 10-15 homers and a sub-15% K rate while playing 3-4x per week at 2B/SS/3B/CF is a reasonable projection here if his development stays on course.



## KYLE DEBARGE | #24

SS | Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels - Arizona Complex League (R) | Bats: Right | Age 21 | 5' 9" - 170 lbs

YESTERDAY  
TODAY  
TOMORROW  
MON. NOV. 25  
TUE. NOV. 26

No Game.

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### PERSONAL DETAILS

Age	21 years, 131 days
Date of Birth	July 15th , 2003
City of Birth	Lake Charles, LA
Nationality	American 🇺🇸
Position	Shortstop
Bats / Throws	Right / Right
Team	Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels (ACL, LAA)
Salary	Minor League Contract
School	UL Lafayette
Acquired	Draft Pick (2024, Rd: 3 - Ovr Pk: 83rd)
Morale	Normal 😊
Expectation	No expectation
Major Service	None
Twitter Handle	@DeBargeKyle 🐦

### BASIC BATTING RATINGS

Contact	Current / Potential
40 / 55	<div style="width: 72%;"></div>
Gap Power	
35 / 35	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>
Power	
30 / 45	<div style="width: 66%;"></div>
Eye	
35 / 55	<div style="width: 63%;"></div>
Avoid K's	
45 / 65	<div style="width: 69%;"></div>

### SUMMARY

Overall 20

Potential 45

Scouting Accuracy Very High

### OTHER BATTING RATINGS

Batted Ball Profile	Normal
Groundball Tendency	Normal
Flyball Tendency	Normal
Speed	<div style="width: 50%;"></div>
Stealing Aggressiveness	<div style="width: 60%;"></div>
Stealing Ability	<div style="width: 60%;"></div>
Baserunning	<div style="width: 65%;"></div>
Sacrifice Bunt	<div style="width: 50%;"></div>
Bunt for Hit	<div style="width: 40%;"></div>

### POSITION RATINGS

First Base	<div style="width: 66%;"></div>
Second Base	<div style="width: 91%;"></div>
Third Base	<div style="width: 72%;"></div>
Shortstop	<div style="width: 50%;"></div>

### DEFENSIVE RATINGS

Infield Range	<div style="width: 60%;"></div>
Infield Error	<div style="width: 60%;"></div>
Infield Arm	<div style="width: 50%;"></div>
Turn DP	<div style="width: 60%;"></div>

### PERSONALITY


When his mind wanders, he wanders, but good basic skills.

Personality class: Unknown

High: Adaptability

**4th Round (#114): SP Chris Levonas, HS Lincroft, NJ (Signed \$950K); \$1.9M remaining**

Why did we want to save money with the DeBarge pick? Well, here's why. *Caveat emptor*. There's no such thing as a pitching prospect ("TSNTAAPP), etc. In a class without a consensus top high school arm, former Wake Forest commit Levonas might have the upside of anyone in the class. For what it's worth, the below eval is from our new scouting director (more on that later), and McIlvaine's group wasn't *quite* this high during its Draft evaluation. But even a skills-over-tools guy like McIlvaine was able to see the potential here, and we were able to meet his \$950K demand to pry him away from the "pitching lab" at Wake Forest. After signing, he started six games for Low A Inland Empire and didn't look out of place. He'll likely open 2025 there as well to avoid the cold early-season weather of our High A affiliate in upstate New York and currently sits fifth (#92 overall among all prospects) among pitchers in the 2024 Draft in the current OSA scouting rankings (Hagen Smith #61; Jonathan Santucci #70; William Schmidt #72, Trey Yesavage #76). Fingers crossed.



## CHRIS LEVONAS | #30

SP | Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels - Arizona Complex League (R) | Throws: Right | Age 18 | 6' 2" - 170 lbs

YESTERDAY  
TODAY  
TOMORROW

MON. NOV. 25  
TUE. NOV. 26

No Game.

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### PERSONAL DETAILS

Age	18 years, 286 days
Date of Birth	February 11th, 2006
City of Birth	Holmdel, NJ
Nationality	American 🇺🇸
Position	Pitcher (Starter)
Bats / Throws	Right / Right
Team	Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels (ACL, LAA)
Salary	Minor League Contract
Prospect Ranking	#92
School	Christian Brothers Academy
Acquired	Draft Pick (2024, Rd: 4 - Ovr Pk: 113rd)
Morale	Normal 😊
Expectation	No expectation
Major Service	None

### BASIC PITCHING RATINGS

Stuff Current / Potential

40 / 80

Movement

40 / 55

Control

30 / 60

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Fastball

45 / 65

Slider

45 / 75

Curveball

45 / 80

Changeup

40 / 70

### SUMMARY

Overall 20

Potential 80

Scouting Accuracy Very High

### OTHER PITCHING RATINGS

GB/FB Tendency Neutral

Velocity 93-95 Mph

Arm Slot Normal (3/4)

Pitcher Type Normal

Projected Role in MLB (MLB) ▼

Current Bullpen

Future Starter

Stamina

Hold Runners

### POSITION RATINGS

Pitcher

### BATTING RATINGS

Contact

Power

Eye

Sacrifice Bunt

### PERSONALITY

Quality aims and ambitions set a good example in the clubhouse.

Personality class: Unknown

High: Leader



**5th Round (#146): 3B/RHP Carson Messina, HS Summerville, SC (Signed \$180K/Slot \$480K); \$1.7M remaining**

Messina committed to South Carolina (where his brother, Cole, drafted in the 15th round in this Draft, was a part-time catcher) but demonstrated a strong desire to forgo his commitment by signing way under-slot. Like most two-way players, the rigors of pro ball will soon make his decision for him, but for the moment, he's going to develop as a third baseman and starter. This is a standard, power-hitting, 18-year-old corner bat whose ability to control his strikeout rate will determine his big league viability. Among high school bats, only PJ Morlando (10th overall) and Myles Bailey (31st overall) can match his 65-grade power projection, and among all hitters, only Charlie Condon (#1 overall) and Jared Jones (92nd overall) rate higher (70-grade power). He clearly has the arm to stick at third, but absent significant range improvements, won't be more than a fringy defender there and at-risk of moving to the corner outfield grass. Regardless of which position path he ultimately chooses, this is going to be a slow-burning, lengthy developmental project unlikely to sniff the big leagues for 4-5 years. He's going to start his career in short-season ball next May in Arizona, and if things go well, could move to a late-season assignment at Low A Inland Empire.



## CARSON MESSINA | #38

3B | Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels - Arizona Complex League (R) | Bats: Right | Age 18 | 6' 1" - 200 lbs

YESTERDAY  
TODAY  
TOMORROW  
MON. NOV. 25  
TUE. NOV. 26

No Game.

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Ratings relative to: MLB ▾
OSA Ratings
Head Scout

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

Age	18 years, 222 days
Date of Birth	April 15th , 2006
City of Birth	Summerville, SC
Nationality	American 🇺🇸
Position	Third Base / SP
Bats / Throws	Right / Right
Team	Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels (ACL, LAA)
Salary	Minor League Contract
School	Summerville
Acquired	Draft Pick (2024, Rd: 5 - Ovr Pk: 146th)
Morale	Normal 😊
Expectation	No expectation
Major Service	None
Twitter Handle	@carson_messina 🐦

**BASIC BATTING RATINGS**

Contact	Current / Potential
30 / 45	
Gap Power	
20 / 45	
Power	
25 / 65	
Eye	
30 / 65	
Avoid K's	
30 / 45	

**SUMMARY**

Overall 20

Potential 60

Scouting Accuracy Very High

**OTHER BATTING RATINGS**

Batted Ball Profile	Flyball Hitter
Groundball Tendency	Pull Hitter
Flyball Tendency	Pull Hitter
Speed	40
Stealing Aggressiveness	35
Stealing Ability	40
Baserunning	40
Sacrifice Bunt	50
Bunt for Hit	35

**POSITION RATINGS**

Pitcher	70 / 80
Third Base	40 / 45

**DEFENSIVE RATINGS**

Infield Range	45
Infield Error	50
Infield Arm	60
Turn DP	40

**BASIC PITCHING RATINGS**

Stuff	30 / 60
HRA	30 / 60
PBABIP	55 / 55
Control	20 / 45
Stamina	50

**6th Round (#176): C Jayden Melendez, Pittsburgh (Signed \$415K/Slot \$360K); \$1.3M remaining**

Yes, M.J.'s brother. This Draft was a particularly top-heavy catcher crop with four projected first round/supplemental round catchers. Predictably, four of them, in fact, went off the board between picks 15 and 27 with another two going 42nd and 49th. Six catchers in the first 49 picks is certainly notable. There was a long gap before another one was selected 81st, and then...crickets...for nearly 100 picks until we selected Melendez. As anticipated, I didn't want to spend high Draft capital on one of the early round guys, as we're seemingly set for the next several years with Logan O'Hoppe and have three interesting young guys in the lower levels of the minors. However, the drop-off after Melendez was stark, and I wanted to ensure that we grabbed a catcher who could immediately hold his own defensively (Melendez could catch in the big leagues tomorrow, theoretically) and who can get to the bigs within the next two to three seasons. As a bonus, Melenedez is well-regarded for his work ethic and leadership. On-paper, this is the consummate, modern "1B" catcher who can carve out a respectable 10-year big league career by adding value at an extremely difficult position. High walk rate, low average, above-average power – something like .225/.310/.400 at peak with a near .200 ISO and 30% K rate. Depending on his offseason progress, he could open 2025 as high as Double A Rocket City and has a plausible chance to beat all of the first and second round guys to a big league debut.



JAYDEN MELENDEZ | #35

C | Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels - Arizona Complex League (R) | Bats: Right | Age 21 | 5' 9" - 160 lbs

YESTERDAY

TODAY

TOMORROW

MON. NOV. 25

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No Game.

PROFILE

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PERSONAL DETAILS

Age	21 years, 340 days
Date of Birth	December 19th , 2002
City of Birth	Miami, FL
Nationality	American
Position	Catcher
Bats / Throws	Right / Right
Team	Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels (ACL, LAA)
Salary	Minor League Contract
School	University of Pittsburgh
Acquired	Draft Pick (2024, Rd: 6 - Ovr Pk: 175th)
Morale	Normal
Expectation	No expectation
Major Service	None
Twitter Handle	@Jmldz19

BASIC BATTING RATINGS

Contact	35 / 45
Gap Power	40 / 50
Power	45 / 60
Eye	40 / 60
Avoid K's	35 / 45

SUMMARY

Overall	20
Potential	45
Scouting Accuracy	Very High

OTHER BATTING RATINGS

Batted Ball Profile	Normal
Groundball Tendency	Pull Hitter
Flyball Tendency	Pull Hitter
Speed	35
Stealing Aggressiveness	35
Stealing Ability	35
Baserunning	40
Sacrifice Bunt	50
Bunt for Hit	30

POSITION RATINGS

Catcher	50 / 60
---------	---------

DEFENSIVE RATINGS

Catcher Blocking	55
Catcher Framing	60
Catcher Arm	60

PERSONALITY

All the tools: drive, determination, and dedication.

Personality class: Unknown

High: Leader, Adaptability, Work Ethic, Intelligence



**7th Round (#206): LHP Dominic Fritton, NC State (Signed \$95K/Slot \$270K); \$1.0M remaining**

Fritton didn't work a full starter's workload at NC State and might not have the stamina to get through big league batting orders multiple times, but he looks like a future member of the big league staff in some capacity with potentially three plus pitches from the left side. Lefties with devastating changeups tend to outperform baseline expectations, and Fritton's 70-grade athleticism as a defender and ability to hold baserunners gives him a higher floor than the profile might otherwise suggest. We're going to develop him as a starter in hopes of building up his durability, but if he can't throw enough strikes, he's likely destined for a multi-inning/swingman type of role when he debuts in Anaheim in a few years. He was the first guy in our class to make his pro debut after signing and made eight starts (37 IP) at Low A Inland Empire, where struck out 27% of hitters with an 11.2% walk rate. He'll either return to Low A in April or possibly join the rotation at High A Tri City.

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Dominic Fritton

#51

SP | Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels - Arizona Complex League (R) | Throws: Left | Age 21 | 6' 1" - 190 lbs

YESTERDAY  
TODAY  
TOMORROW  
MON. NOV. 25  
TUE. NOV. 26

No Game.

PROFILE

RATINGS

BATTING STATS

PITCHING STATS

FIELDING STATS

HISTORY

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Ratings relative to: MLB

OSA Ratings

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BASEBALL CARDS

ACTIONS...

PERSONAL DETAILS

Age

21 years, 236 days

Date of Birth

April 1st , 2003

City of Birth

Fuquay-Varina, NC

Nationality

American

Position

Pitcher (Starter)

Bats / Throws

Left / Left

Team

Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels (ACL, LAA)

Salary

Minor League Contract

School

North Carolina State University

Acquired

Draft Pick (2024, Rd: 7 - Ovr Pk: 205th)

Morale

Unhappy

Expectation

No expectation

Major Service

None

BASIC PITCHING RATINGS

Stuff

Current / Potential

40 / 65

Movement

45 / 55

Control

35 / 45

Fastball

45 / 65

Curveball

45 / 65

Changeup

45 / 70

SUMMARY

Overall

20

Potential

45

Scouting Accuracy

Very High

OTHER PITCHING RATINGS

GB/FB Tendency

Neutral

Velocity

92-94 Mph

Arm Slot

Normal (3/4)

Pitcher Type

Normal

Projected Role in

MLB (MLB)

Current

Bullpen

Future

Starter

Stamina

45

Hold Runners

60

POSITION RATINGS

Pitcher

65 / 70

BATTING RATINGS

Contact

20 / 25

Power

25 / 35

Eye

20 / 20

Sacrifice Bunt

40

PERSONALITY

Fosters solidarity in any setting.

Personality class: Unknown

High: Leader, Adaptability

Low: Loyalty, Financial Ambition

**8th Round (#236): CF Griffin Burkholder, HS, Chantilly, VA (Signed \$300K/Slot \$220K); \$700K remaining**

If Kellon Lindsey is the fastest runner in the Draft class (he is), then Burkholder might be in the top five. McIlvaine's group was strongly against "doubling up" on another defense/speed high schooler with minimal power after we took Lindsey in the comp. balance round, but I went to the mat for Burkholder because center field defense with even borderline-passable big league offense is so damn hard to find at this point in the Draft. Burkholder's WVU commitment and above-slot demand scared off a bunch of interested clubs, many of whom likely evaluated him as a top three round talent absent those considerations. He also has some dicey character questions and intangible factors that make this a riskier-than-normal pick. But hey, it's the eighth round. We need talent. We need speed. We need defense at premium positions. At a minimum, watching Burkholder and Lindsey terrorize pitchers on the basepaths and fly around fields across middle America for the next few years will be entertaining.

#

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GRIFIN BURKHOLDER | #37

CF | Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels - Arizona Complex League (R) | Bats: Right | Age 19 | 6' 2" - 195 lbs

YESTERDAY  
TODAY  
TOMORROW  
MON. NOV. 25  
TUE. NOV. 26

No Game.

CONTINUE >

Auto-play until next week.

PROFILERATINGSBATTING STATSPITCHING STATSFIELDING STATSISTORYEDITOR

Ratings relative to: MLBOSA RatingsHead Scout

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PERSONAL DETAILS

Age19 years, 85 days

Date of BirthAugust 30th , 2005

City of BirthSouth Riding, VA

NationalityAmerican🇺🇸

PositionCenter Field

Bats / ThrowsRight / Right

TeamLos Angeles A (ACL) Angels (ACL, LAA)

SalaryMinor League Contract

SchoolFreedom

AcquiredDraft Pick (2024, Rd: 8 - Ovr Pk: 235th)

MoraleNormal😊

ExpectationNo expectation

Major ServiceNone

Twitter Handle@GriffinBurk24🐦

BASIC BATTING RATINGS

ContactCurrent / Potential

30 / 55

Gap Power

30 / 50

Power

25 / 40

Eye

30 / 55

Avoid K's

25 / 50

SUMMARY

Overall20

Potential45

Scouting AccuracyVery High🎮

OTHER BATTING RATINGS

Batted Ball ProfileGroundball Hitter

Groundball TendencyPull Hitter

Flyball TendencyPull Hitter

Speed70

Stealing Aggressiveness75

Stealing Ability65

Baserunning65

Sacrifice Bunt45

Bunt for Hit45

POSITION RATINGS

Left Field60 / 70

Center Field45 / 55

Right Field55 / 65

DEFENSIVE RATINGS

Outfield Range65

Outfield Error60

Outfield Arm55

PERSONALITY

Likely to make poor decisions both on and off the field.




Personality class: Unknown

High: Adaptability

Low: Loyalty, Work Ethic, Intelligence

**9th Round (#266): RHP LeBarron Johnson, Univ. of Texas (Signed \$340K/Slot \$190K); \$360K remaining**

We're splurging. Another over-slot pick in the middle rounds. Like Fritton, Johnson slid down boards due to concerns that he's not going to be able to maintain a starter's workload as he progresses through the minors. But unlike Fritton, I think those concerns are well-founded, and am reasonably confident that Johnson, will, in fact, end up in a bullpen role as a slider-first righty with troublesome platoon issues and erratic command. In hindsight, I really don't love this pick, but perhaps we'll be able to develop his splitter into a second "out" pitch to pair with his very strong slider. He joined Fritton for the final two months at Inland Empire and was smacked around by Low A hitters, who teed off when he couldn't find the strike zone (25.3% K rate; 17.1% BB rate). It's too early to "give up" on him as a starter, and he'll return to Inland Empire after a full offseason. By the time he reaches Double A Rocket City, however, I suspect he'll have converted to the bullpen full-time.

LEBARRON JOHNSON JR. | #57

SP | Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels - Arizona Complex League (R) | Throws: Right | Age 22 | 6' 5" - 215 lbs

YESTERDAY

TODAY

TOMORROW

MON. NOV. 25

TUE. NOV. 26

No Game.

PROFILE

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PITCHING STATS

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Ratings relative to: MLB

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BASEBALL CARDS

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PERSONAL DETAILS

Age

22 years, 157 days


Date of Birth

June 19th, 2002

City of Birth

Jacksonville, FL

Nationality

American 

Position

Pitcher (Starter)

Bats / Throws

Right / Right

Team

Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels (ACL, LAA)

Salary

Minor League Contract


School

University of Texas

Acquired

Draft Pick (2024, Rd: 9 - Ovr Pk: 265th)

Morale

Unhappy 

Expectation

No expectation

Major Service

None

BASIC PITCHING RATINGS

Stuff

40 / 55

Current / Potential

Movement

45 / 55

Control

35 / 45

Slider

50 / 70

Sinker

45 / 65

Splitter

40 / 55

SUMMARY


Overall

20

Potential

40

Scouting Accuracy

 Very High

OTHER PITCHING RATINGS

GB/FB Tendency

Neutral

Velocity

95-97 Mph

Arm Slot

Normal (3/4)

Pitcher Type

Normal

Projected Role in

MLB (MLB)

Current

Bulpen / Emergency Starter

Future

Starter

Stamina

45

Hold Runners

50

POSITION RATINGS

Pitcher

50 / 55

BATTING RATINGS

Contact

30 / 40

Power

20 / 35

Eye

20 / 35

Sacrifice Bunt

50

PERSONALITY

A good character, not much to dislike.

Personality class: Unknown



**10th Round (#296): 1B/DH Corey Collins, Univ. of Georgia (Signed \$75K/Slot \$185K); \$290K remaining**

Collins was Robin to **Charlie Condon's** Batman on UGA's record-setting 2024 team, hitting out of the lead-off spot in Schwarber-ian fashion despite well below-average speed and no stolen base ability. He was also a part-time catcher in Athens but will move to first base full-time in pro ball. This particular profile has fallen out of favor in recent years, as the industry's emphasis on defense has made it arduous for first base-only players to find their way onto big league rosters absent monstrous power/OBP numbers. Collins' raw power and on-base ability gives him a fighting chance to eventually carve out a strong-side 1B/DH platoon role, but his horrendous contact issues might simply be too much to overcome. In terms of raw "juice," he's up there with anyone in the class (Condon, Jared Jones, Braden Montgomery, Myles Bailey, etc), and his post-Draft professional debut was nothing short of scintillating, hitting a combined .234/.351/.669 with 17 home runs in just 148 plate appearances between Low A and High A! That's a .435 ISO. Of equal importance, he struck out at a 39.7% clip. Yep. We know what we're getting here, but for \$75K in Round 10, I was quite happy to get him on-board, and along with Montgomery and Messina, he rounds out a Draft class in which we secured three of the available 10 bats with 65+ power grades.



COREY COLLINS | #9

1B | Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels - Arizona Complex League (R) | Bats: Left | Age 23 | 6' 3" - 225 lbs

YESTERDAY

TODAY

TOMORROW

MON. NOV. 25

TUE. NOV. 26

No Game.

PROFILE

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PITCHING STATS

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Ratings relative to: MLB

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BASEBALL CARDS

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PERSONAL DETAILS

Age

23 years, 44 days


Date of Birth

October 10th , 2001

City of Birth

Suwanee, GA

Nationality

American 

Position

First Base

Bats / Throws

Left / Right

Team

Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels (ACL, LAA)

Salary

Minor League Contract

School

University of Georgia

Acquired

Draft Pick (2024, Rd: 10 - Ovr Pk: 295th)

Morale

Normal 😊

Expectation

No expectation

Major Service

None

Twitter Handle

@CoreyGJ6 

BASIC BATTING RATINGS

Contact

Current / Potential

35 / 35

Gap Power

45 / 50

Power

60 / 65

Eye

45 / 65

Avoid K's

35 / 40

SUMMARY

Overall

35

Potential

45

Scouting Accuracy

 Very High

OTHER BATTING RATINGS

Batted Ball Profile

Flyball Hitter

Groundball Tendency

Spray Hitter

Flyball Tendency

Spray Hitter

Speed

40

Stealing Aggressiveness

40

Stealing Ability

35

Baserunning

35

Sacrifice Bunt

50

Bunt for Hit

25

POSITION RATINGS

Catcher

30 / 35

First Base

45 / 50

DEFENSIVE RATINGS

Infield Range

35

Infield Error

35

Infield Arm

55

Turn DP

30

PERSONALITY


Consistently focuses on the tasks at hand.

Personality class: Unknown

High: Adaptability

**11th Round (#326): RHP Austin Gordon, Clemson (Signed \$190K); \$170K remaining**

We're running out of money. As expected, some of our late-round picks simply won't be signed. Unlike Fitton, Gordon throws from the right side and can't rely on a nasty changeup to carry him through. Still, this is a very advanced repertoire with respectable stuff this late into the Draft. Six of Gordon's eight post-Draft appearances at Low A were out of the bullpen, where he blew away hitters with a 31% K rate and 6% walk rate and didn't allow an earned run in 15 scoreless innings. He could probably handle an aggressive 2025 assignment to AA Rocket City, but he'll more likely open at Tri City with an opportunity for a quick promotion if he picks up where he left off at the end of 2024.



# AUSTIN GORDON | #56

RP | Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels - Arizona Complex League (R) | Throws: Right | Age 21 | 6' 5" - 185 lbs

YESTERDAY

TODAY

TOMORROW

MON. NOV. 25

TUE. NOV. 26

No Game.

PROFILE

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FIELDING STATS

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Ratings relative to: MLB

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BASEBALL CARDS

ACTIONS...

## PERSONAL DETAILS

Age	21 years, 162 days
Date of Birth	June 14th , 2003
City of Birth	Myrtle Beach, SC
Nationality	American
Position	Pitcher (Reliever)
Bats / Throws	Right / Right
Team	Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels (ACL, LAA)
Salary	Minor League Contract
School	Clemson University
Acquired	Draft Pick (2024, Rd: 11 - Ovr Pk: 325th)
Morale	Normal 😊
Expectation	No expectation
Major Service	None
Twitter Handle	@austin_gordon8

## BASIC PITCHING RATINGS

Stuff	Current / Potential
45 / 65	<div></div>
Movement	
40 / 50	<div></div>
Control	
40 / 55	<div></div>
Fastball	
50 / 65	<div></div>
Slider	
45 / 65	<div></div>
Changeup	
45 / 55	<div></div>

## SUMMARY

Overall	30
Potential	45
Scouting Accuracy	Very High

## OTHER PITCHING RATINGS

GB/FB Tendency	Flyball Pitcher
Velocity	93-95 Mph
Arm Slot	Normal (3/4)
Pitcher Type	Normal
Projected Role in	MLB (MLB)
Current	Bullpen
Future	Starter
Stamina	45 <div></div>
Hold Runners	35 <div></div>

## POSITION RATINGS

Pitcher	40 / 50 <div></div>
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## BATTING RATINGS

Contact	25 / 30 <div></div>
Power	20 / 25 <div></div>
Eye	30 / 35 <div></div>
Sacrifice Bunt	35 <div></div>

## PERSONALITY

Gordon is always looking for a new edge.

Personality class: Unknown

High: Work Ethic

Low: Intelligence

**14th Round (#415): LF/RF Jackson Linn, Tulane (Signed \$75); \$95K remaining**

Linn was the only feared bat on an underwhelming Tulane offense but still managed to put up gaudy power numbers. He faces an uphill climb to the bigs as a right-handed hitting, corner-OF only prospect, but the 60-grade power is very real, and if he can develop some semblance of on-base skills, he might eventually find his way onto the roster in a platoon role. The downside case is that he turns into a "Quad A" player because he can't control his strikeouts and is just a good corner OF defender with big pop. He was completely overwhelmed in a short post-Draft cameo at Low A (.192/.248/.343 with a 46% K rate and 55 wRC+). He'll open there in 2025.

# JACKSON LINN | #15

LF | Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels - Arizona Complex League (R) | Bats: Right | Age 21 | 6' 3" - 210 lbs

YESTERDAY  
TODAY  
TOMORROW  
MON. NOV. 25  
TUE. NOV. 26

No Game.

PROFILE
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 BATTING STATS
 PITCHING STATS
 FIELDING STATS
 HISTORY
 EDITOR

Ratings relative to: MLB OSA Ratings Head Scout

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### PERSONAL DETAILS

Age	21 years, 183 days
Date of Birth	May 24th , 2003
City of Birth	Cambridge, MA
Nationality	American 🇺🇸
Position	Left Field
Bats / Throws	Right / Right
Team	Los Angeles A (ACL) Angels (ACL, LAA)
Salary	Minor League Contract
School	Tulane University
Acquired	Draft Pick (2024, Rd: 14 - Ovr Pk: 415th)
Morale	Normal 😊
Expectation	No expectation
Major Service	None
Twitter Handle	@JacksonLinn4 🐦

### BASIC BATTING RATINGS

Contact	Current / Potential
35 / 45	
Gap Power	
40 / 50	
Power	
40 / 60	
Eye	
35 / 40	
Avoid K's	
35 / 40	

### SUMMARY

Overall	20
Potential	45
Scouting Accuracy	Very High 🏎️

### OTHER BATTING RATINGS

Batted Ball Profile	Normal
Groundball Tendency	Pull Hitter
Flyball Tendency	Pull Hitter
Speed	50
Stealing Aggressiveness	50
Stealing Ability	50
Baserunning	50
Sacrifice Bunt	45
Bunt for Hit	35

### POSITION RATINGS

Left Field	45 / 55
Center Field	25 / 30
Right Field	45 / 50

### DEFENSIVE RATINGS

Outfield Range	50
Outfield Error	55
Outfield Arm	65

### PERSONALITY

Battles past physical obstacles with no thought of consequences.

Personality class: Unknown

High: Loyalty, Adaptability, Work Ethic

Low: Leader, Financial Ambition, Intelligence



**16th Round (#415): OF Will Turner, South Alabama (Signed \$140K)**

We freed up a little bit of extra money in the budget following the Trade Deadline to sign a few of our late Draft guys (though four went unsigned). I really wanted to get Turner under contract as his outfield defense will be quite helpful to our developing pitchers over the next few seasons. While the offensive bar for center fielders is quite low, I don't expect that he'll hit enough to be anything other than (at-best) an up-and-down fourth outfielder or short-term injury replacement on the bench.

[illegible]

### Others of Note

- 13th Round: OF **Nate George** (HS), Minooka, IL; demanded \$650K. Did not sign and matriculated to Eastern Illinois.
- 15th Round: RHP **Andreas Alvarez** (HS), St. Petersburg, FL; demanded \$180K. Did not sign and matriculated to Auburn.
- 17th Round: RHP **Sawyer Hawks**, Vanderbilt Univ.; demanded \$360K. Did not sign and returned to Vandy for his senior year.
- 20th Round: IF **Jacob Hinderleier**, Clemson Univ; demanded \$125K. Did not sign and is playing Independent baseball.



## Overall Draft Overview

	POS	Name	Age	Draft Team*	Draft Round	Draft Pick	School	Height	Weight	Demand	Overall	Potential
	RF	Braden Montgomery	21	Los Angeles	1	8	Texas A&M University	6' 1"	205 lbs	\$6,750,000	25	60
	SP	Drew Beam	21	Los Angeles	2	45	University of Tennessee	6' 4"	205 lbs	\$4,400,000	25	60
	SS	Kellon Lindsey	19	Los Angeles	2	75	Hardee High School	6' 0"	155 lbs	\$550,000	20	50
	SS	Kyle DeBarge	21	Los Angeles	3	83	UL Lafayette	5' 9"	170 lbs	\$120,000	20	45
	SP	Chris Levonas	18	Los Angeles	4	113	Christian Brothers Academy	6' 2"	170 lbs	\$950,000	20	80
	3B	Carson Messina	18	Los Angeles	5	146	Summerville	6' 1"	200 lbs	\$180,000	20	60
	C	Jayden Melendez	21	Los Angeles	6	175	University of Pittsburgh	5' 9"	160 lbs	\$430,000	20	45
	SP	Dominic Fritton	21	Los Angeles	7	205	North Carolina State University	6' 1"	190 lbs	\$95,000	20	45
	CF	Griffin Burkholder	19	Los Angeles	8	235	Freedom	6' 2"	195 lbs	\$310,000	20	45
	SP	LeBarron Johnson Jr.	22	Los Angeles	9	265	University of Texas	6' 5"	215 lbs	\$340,000	20	40
	1B	Corey Collins	23	Los Angeles	10	295	University of Georgia	6' 3"	225 lbs	\$75,000	35	45
	RP	Austin Gordon	21	Los Angeles	11	325	Clemson University	6' 5"	185 lbs	\$210,000	30	45
	SS	Wallace Clark	22	Los Angeles	12	355	Duke University	6' 0"	185 lbs	\$85,000	20	35
	LF	Jackson Linn	21	Los Angeles	14	415	Tulane University	6' 3"	210 lbs	\$75,000	20	45
	CF	Will Turner	22	Los Angeles	16	475	University of South Alabama	6' 2"	185 lbs	\$140,000	20	40
	RP	Aaron Combs	22	Los Angeles	18	535	University of Tennessee	6' 3"	190 lbs	\$120,000	30	40
	RP	Yoel Tejeda Jr.	21	Los Angeles	19	565	Florida State University	6' 6"	205 lbs	\$110,000	30	45

- Considering the circumstances, this Draft went as well as could be reasonably expected. The above scouting evals are from the perspective of our new scouting director, **Deron Johnson**, whom we hired immediately following the end of the season. It will take more than one Draft cycle to get this moribund system into position to feed talent onto the big league roster, but we're at least now heading in the right direction as the offseason begins. The majority of the position players are either locked into a premium defensive spot, or have a particular carrying tool that gives them potential value down the road. This is a nice mix of floor/safety (Beam, Melendez, DeBarge) with boom/bust upside (Levonas, Messina).
- I don't expect anyone other than Beam and Levonas to develop into *bona fide* rotation pieces, but Fritton being able to stick as a starter would be a major developmental win. The best organizations always seem to have one or two mid-round arms whom they developed into viable big league starters without spending big draft capital to do so.
- Unlike the Angels' two most recent first round picks (Neto and Schanuel), Angels fans shouldn't expect to see Montgomery until the end of 2026 (at the very earliest). As a tools-ier outfielder, his developmental curve is longer than many of the guys who were drafted behind him – like Nick Kurtz, Peyton Stovall, Mike Sirota, etc. I'd love to sync up his debut with the primes of the O'Hoppe/Neto/Schanuel core, but quite a bit is going to happen in the interim and it might not be a realistic plan given the vagaries of player development.





Alright, the Draft ended. All Star festivities commenced. A great time was had by all (well, except us, because our only All Star was **Logan O’Hoppe**). You know from the previous page which draftees signed and which did not. That was mid-July. With the Trade Deadline looming in two weeks, we had quite a bit of work to do in trying to infuse something (anything) into our system. We also wanted to free up a few dollars to sign our remaining picks and perhaps make a late-season waiver claim, but we were -\$2M in the hole as of July 1. Just terrible mismanagement everywhere in this organization.

The million-dollar question was whether we would go the Arte Moreno route and seek close-to-the-bigs prospects in hopes of sticking a band-aid on this bleeding mess, or seek younger, far-away talent with real upside and plenty of downside? If you’ve read this far, you know which path I preferred.


**Luis Rengifo’s** poorly-timed injury in early July took him off the board for Deadline consideration. While he returned a few days prior to the Deadline, ostensibly-interested teams weren’t willing to pay for the uncertainty of his right wrist inflammation. Thus, we knew a week prior to the Deadline that shopping Rengifo would need to wait until the offseason, when we could negotiate the final year of his team control (projected arbitration number of around \$7.0M).

With Rengifo down, our only other piece through whom we could receive a significant return was **Taylor Ward**, who is under arb control through the 2026 season at reasonable cost (\$6M in 2025; \$9.5M in 2026). As is widely-known throughout the industry, we have little reason to keep Ward (a late-bloomer who is already 30 years old) around through the dark days of this rebuild. Naturally, I suspected that other execs would low-ball us on Ward offers anticipating that we could be antsy to move him now rather than allowing his controllable years to further erode. As it turned out, my hunch was correct. There were very few competitive offers, and after grinding the phones up until the final moments, I opted to hold onto Ward until the offseason when some of the Deadline sellers might be willing to get involved. Of note, we did kick around a possible deal with the Diamondbacks centered around Alek Thomas, but couldn’t agree on money and ancillary pieces.

We did, however, move a few of our rentals, albeit no one with anywhere near the value of Rengifo or Ward. While I wanted to be involved early, we only made one small-potatoes deal prior to Deadline Day:

**July 23: Traded RHP Luis Garcia to Boston for RHP Luis Guerrero**

Garcia, 37, was more or less doing what was expected of him, pitching to a 5.13 ERA (4.57 FIP) with a 22.7 K%/7.6% BB and his customary 65% ground ball rate. The Red Sox were seeking middle relief help after a slew of injuries and offered us a pile of borderline top 30 guys and organizational depth pieces from which to choose. We picked their 26th-ranked prospect, 23-year-old Luis Guerrero, whom the Red Sox selected in the 17th round in 2021 out of a Florida JuCo. He’s Rule 5-eligible for the first time this (2024) offseason and is a lock to be added to our 40-man. Standard up-down reliever profile with a big fastball and solid slider/splitter combo, albeit with the usual 40-control grade. He was working at AAA Worcester at the time of the trade, but we sent him to AA Rocket City to keep him out of the brutal confines of the PCL as he adjusted to a new organization and coaching philosophy. Once he’s added to the 40-man in the offseason, he’ll have three minor league options for us to churn through over the next few years.



LUIS GUERRERO | #29

RP | Rocket City Trash Pandas - Southern League (AA) | Throws: Right | Age 24 | 6' 2" - 210 lbs

YESTERDAY

TODAY

TOMORROW

MON. NOV. 25

TUE. NOV. 26

No Game.

PROFILE

RATINGS

BATTING STATS

PITCHING STATS

FIELDING STATS

REAL LIFE STATS

HISTORY

EDITOR

SUMMARY

CONTRACT

STRATEGY

DEVELOPMENT

SCOUTING

INJURY HISTORY

BNN PAGE

BASEBALL CARDS

PERSONAL DETAILS

Age24 years, 110 days

Date of BirthAugust 5th, 2000

City of BirthMiami, FL

NationalityAmerican

PositionPitcher (Reliever)

Bats / ThrowsRight / Right

TeamRocket City Trash Pandas (SL, LAA)

SalaryMinor League Contract

SchoolChipola College (JuCo)

AcquiredTrade with BOS (07/23/2024)

MoraleNormal

ExpectationNo expectation

Major ServiceNone

BASIC PITCHING RATINGS

Stuff55 / 60

Movement55 / 55

Control40 / 40

Fastball65 / 70

Slider55 / 60

Splitter60 / 65

SUMMARY

Overall40

Potential40

Scouting AccuracyVery High

OTHER PITCHING RATINGS

GB/FB TendencyFlyball Pitcher

Velocity96-98 Mph

Arm SlotNormal (3/4)

Pitcher TypePower Pitcher

Projected Role inMLB (MLB)

CurrentBullpen

FutureBullpen

Stamina30

Hold Runners45

POSITION RATINGS

Pitcher50 / 60

BATTING RATINGS

Contact20 / 20

Power20 / 20

Eye20 / 20

Sacrifice Bunt70

PERSONALITY

Well-liked.

Despite some rather diligent efforts in the week following the Garcia deal, we couldn’t get anything over the finish line. We very aggressively shopped **Tyler Anderson** to contending teams in need of reliable starting pitching, but his contract proved to be quite an impediment (\$5.5M remaining in 2024; \$13M guaranteed in 2025). Even amidst his best season in years, we were unable to find a deal despite offering to eat more than half of the remaining money. We’ll try again this offseason.

We similarly couldn’t find landing spots for **Brandon Drury** (owed \$3M+ in 2024) or **Kevin Pillar** (vet minimum). While I was unsurprised to be stuck with Drury, I did expect to move Pillar. Alas, no one was willing to move a prospect in return. Ditto for **Hunter Strickland** and **Luis Guillorme**.

Thus, our only remaining chips were breakout closer **Carlos Estevez** (owed \$2.7M) and crusty veteran lefty **Matt Moore** (owed \$3.6M). We received a handful of decent offers for Estevez over the course of the week, so I knew there was a viable market there of contenders looking for setup-type arms on reasonable contracts. The offers dragged into Deadline day as we went back and forth with the Royals and Giants for a potential Estevez deal...



While we were deciding between the Giants' and Royals' best Estevez offers, we received an intriguing, out-of-nowhere proposal from the Yankees – seeking veteran lefty relief help – with less than an hour remaining until the Deadline. In exchange for us eating 90% of Moore's remaining money, the Yanks offered one of the most promising (sort of) catching prospects in the DSL, 19-year-old **Engelth Urena**. Wow. Sure. But there was a catch. They also wanted **Kyren Paris**. I mentioned Paris several pages back as a recognizable name simply due to the shallowness of our farm system. On a contending team, he's a backup middle infielder with a discerning eye. Despite only being 22, he appears to be near fully-maxed out developmentally. Again, a useful player under the right circumstances, but the Angels rushed him through the system and perhaps curtailed some of his potential growth. With only one remaining option year (2025), I didn't love the manner in which he fit into our rebuild timeline. Thus, despite some reservations about Urena's viability sticking behind the plate (he needs a shitload of work there), we took the deal.

ENGELTH URENA | #34

C | Los Angeles (DSL) Angels - Dominican Rookie League (R) | Bats: Right | Age 20 | 6' 0" - 195 lbs

YESTERDAY  
TODAY  
TOMORROW  
TUE. DEC. 3  
WED. DEC. 4

No Game.

PROFILERATINGSBATTING STATSPITCHING STATSFIELDING STATSREAL LIFE STATSHISTORYEDITOR

Ratings relative to: MLBOSA RatingsHead Scout

SUMMARYCONTRACTSTRATEGYDEVELOPMENTSCOUTINGINJURY HISTORYBNN PAGEBASEBALL CARDS

ACTIONS...

PERSONAL DETAILS

Age

20 years, 106 days

Date of Birth

August 17th , 2004

City of Birth

Santo Domingo, DIS

Nationality

Dominican

Position

Catcher

Bats / Throws

Right / Right

Team

Los Angeles (DSL) Angels (DSL, LAA)

Salary

Minor League Contract

Acquired

Trade with NYY (07/31/2024)

Morale

Normal

Expectation

No expectation

Major Service

None

BASIC BATTING RATINGS

Contact

Current / Potential

30 / 45

Gap Power

30 / 45

Power

35 / 60

Eye

35 / 55

Avoid K's

35 / 60

SUMMARY

Overall

20

Potential

45

Scouting Accuracy

Very High

OTHER BATTING RATINGS

Batted Ball Profile

Flyball Hitter

Groundball Tendency

Normal

Flyball Tendency

Normal

Speed

35

Stealing Aggressiveness

35

Stealing Ability

35

Baserunning

35

Sacrifice Bunt

50

Bunt for Hit

40

POSITION RATINGS

Catcher

35 / 40

DEFENSIVE RATINGS

Catcher Blocking

45

Catcher Framing

40



Catcher Arm

50

PERSONALITY

Rigid in his routines.

Personality class: Unknown

KYREN PARIS | #28

2B | New York Yankees | Bats: Right | Age 23 | 6' 0" - 180 lbs | Salary: \$740,000

YESTERDAY

TODAY

TOMORROW

TUE. DEC. 3

WED. DEC. 4

No Game.

PROFILE

RATINGS

BATTING STATS

PITCHING STATS

FIELDING STATS

REAL LIFE STATS

HISTORY

EDITOR

Ratings relative to: MLB

OSA Ratings

Head Scout

SUMMARY

CONTRACT

STRATEGY

DEVELOPMENT

SCOUTING

INJURY HISTORY

BNN PAGE

BASEBALL CARDS

ACTIONS...

PERSONAL DETAILS

Age

23 years, 20 days


Date of Birth

November 11th , 2001

City of Birth

Oakley, CA

Nationality

American 

Position

Second Base

Bats / Throws

Right / Right

Team

New York Yankees (MLB)

Salary

\$740,000

Signed through

2025 (minimum)

School

Freedom

Acquired

Trade with LAA (07/31/2024)

Morale

Normal 😊

Expectation

Bench player

Major Service

0 Years, 116 Days

BASIC BATTING RATINGS

Contact

Current / Potential

45 / 45

Gap Power

50 / 50

Power

40 / 40

Eye

55 / 65

Avoid K's

45 / 45

SUMMARY

Overall

40

Potential

45

Scouting Accuracy

Very High

OTHER BATTING RATINGS

Batted Ball Profile

Normal

Groundball Tendency

Normal

Flyball Tendency

Normal

Speed

50

Stealing Aggressiveness

65

Stealing Ability

70

Baserunning

55

Sacrifice Bunt

55

Bunt for Hit

55

POSITION RATINGS

Second Base

60 / 65

Shortstop

55

DEFENSIVE RATINGS

Infield Range

65

Infield Error

55

Infield Arm

55

Turn DP

60

PERSONALITY

He is a vocal leader in the clubhouse and has an engine that never quits. He is well-respected by his teammates.

High: Leader, Work Ethic

With the Moore deal consummated, we turned our attention back to the **Carlos Estevez** sweepstakes. **Robert Stephenson's** season-ending injury opened the door to Estevez claiming the full-time closer's role, and he took full advantage with a 2.38 ERA (2.75 FIP) and a 25.6% K rate and miniscule 4.0% BB rate.

Our discussions with the surging Royals earlier in the week centered around Austin Charles, a prospect generally ranked in the low 20's in KC's system. Charles was a 20th round steal for KC in the 2022 Draft, as the Royals plucked him from obscurity out of a Bakersfield, CA high school. While his development will take awhile, he appears on his way to eventually playing his way into a big league role (ETA 2026) as a power-hitting, right-handed third baseman and possible corner outfielder. I figured his timeline lined up well with jettisoning **Anthony Rendon**, and that Charles could fill a present void in our system, which lacks a viable, starting-caliber third base prospect. The lone hang-up on my end was that the Royals were unwilling to kick in any money for Estevez's remaining \$2.6M.

We would have likely pulled the trigger on an Estevez-for-Charles swap but for a compelling offer from the Giants, who initially offered slick-fiedling shortstop Averson Arteaga, but eventually relented when we pushed hard for their elite defensive center field prospect, Grant McCray. The Giants rolled the dice leaving both Arteaga and McCray unprotected last November in Rule 5 – a gamble that paid off when neither was picked. Both were locks to be added to the 40-man following the 2024 season due to their premium defensive skills at difficult positions. Unlike the Royals, the Giants offered to pay the remainder of Estevez's \$2.6M salary *if* we included the Angels' 2023 3rd round pick, **Alberto Rios**. The Rios pick was widely-panned at the time and now looks like a full-blown disaster, as Rios has slid down the defensive spectrum from catcher to corner outfield, where he lacks the necessary power to profile as even a big league bench bat. At the time of the trade, he had a 63 wRC+ at Inland Empire.

Meanwhile, McCray is a gold glove-level defender whose path to center field at Oracle Park was blocked by Jung-Ho Lee, in whom the Giants invested considerable money last offseason. McCray was the Giants' 3rd round pick in 2019 out of Brandeton, FL, and it was well-known at the time that his tools-centric development would be a slow, methodical burn. He's always struggled to control his strikeout, sitting at 29.9% for his career, albeit offset by a career 11.5% walk rate. This is very much the Trent Grisham profile. We'll add him to the 40-man in a few weeks ahead of Rule 5 and he can open 2025 back at AAA Salt Lake with an emphasis on trying to reduce his strikeout rate into a more palatable range. He's a major key in our plan to get **Mike Trout** out of center field on a semi-regular basis, as Trout can rotate through the corner outfield and DH spots with McCray in center. I suspect McCray will get considerable run in the bigs in the second half of 2025, as he's a more advanced hitter than Jordyn Adams, who is the current favorite for the fourth outfield role based strictly on age (25 vs. 23) and possesses similarly elite defensive skills, but doesn't have the same in-game power and barrel rate as McCray.



